

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2006

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This broadcast can also be heard on Echolink by connecting to ZS6FCS or to www.zs6mrk.org and following the indicated links. This, and previous bulletins, can be downloaded from the web site of the SARL i.e. www.sarl.org.za. You can read or download previous bulletins from there and subscribe to receive future bulletins by email.

This transmission is by Hans, ZS6KR, on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with a relay on 3 695 kHz. (Other newsreaders please change to suit).

In the news today:

ENTRY LEVEL LICENCE MANUAL NOW AVAILABLE

ANNUAL JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR

RADIO ZS

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

ENTRY LEVEL LICENCE MANUAL NOW AVAILABLE

The SARL has completed the first draft of the entry-level licence manual to assist students who are planning to write the ZU exam in October. The manual is available on the web. Go to www.sarl.org.za and download the file free of charge. It is available in PDF format. While in draft form, it is not expected that many changes will be made other than some editorial and layout enhancements.

The syllabus is included in the document. Students should note that after passing the examination, it will still be necessary to pass a practical HF operating test, as is the requirement for all license classes. Although the syllabus is based on proposals currently being discussed at CEPT level, the ZU licence is presently not a HAREC licence.

The SARL is working on several enhancements to set examinations for the entry-level license more frequently and ultimately will make it available as a web based examination. To upgrade from a ZU licence to a ZS or ZR licence students will have to write the full examination for these licences.

The closing date for exam registrations was 14 September. To assist candidates who may wish to register for the entry-level license examination, the date has been extended to 21 September after which the late entry fee will apply.

ANNUAL JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR

Dave Gemmell, ZS6AAW, the National JOTA Co-ordinator for the South African Scout Association invites all interested radio amateurs and Clubs to “help” with this year’s Jamboree-on-the-Air, to be held on 21 and 22 October 2006. Do not wait to be asked! Clubs or individual hams may organise JOTA stations themselves and then invite the nearest Scout Groups and/or Guide Companies to attend. In this way, we should be able to have more radio stations on the air. These stations can be set up at the Radio Amateur Clubhouse or preferably, on the Scout grounds, the latter has the advantage of easy access to ropes and pioneering equipment. The event has the great advantage of providing an opportunity for the hams, scouts and guides to tackle a “different type” of structures compared to the usual ones. Remember there are quite a few “simple” wire antennas with which you can experiment.

Interested hams are also asked to set up their stations to contact with JOTA stations and demonstrate their favourite transmission mode be it CW, SSB or digital. Please ensure that your special event call sign is fully paid up and registered with SARL Headquarters so that non-licensed people may “talk” on the air. Many have had the impression that a JOTA event is a lot of work but it need cost no more effort than arranging a club antenna event or similar function. In the past the Australians have called JOTA “The Low Cost Jamboree”.

CANADIAN AMATEUR MAKE 1 600 km CONTACT ON VLF

Two Canadian amateurs made a two-way CW contact on VLF over a distance of 1 600 km. Steve McDonald, VE7SL, and J Allen, VY1JA, made their first long-distance, low-frequency aural CW contact on 137 kHz between Whitehorse, Yukon Territory and Mayne Island, British Columbia on Friday, September 9, at 07:05 UTC. The distance between the two stations is approximately 1 600 km. “It was nice not having to rely on computers or QRSS [very slow-speed CW] mode to be able to work each other,” McDonald said. “Copy was 100 percent at both ends with little fading.” VY1JA was running 200 W to a 100-foot top-loaded tower, resonated at 137 kHz, while VE7SL was running 450 W to a 65-foot wire vertical and three wire top hats. VE7SL says that as summertime atmospheric noise abates, he anticipates that he and VY1JA will enjoy many regular ragchews on 2 200 metres.

While Canada has not yet allocated an Amateur Radio LF band, Industry Canada has authorized several Canadian hams to experiment in the vicinity of 136 kHz. “LF experimental work by Canadian amateurs continues to demonstrate the suitability of 2 200 meters for reliable two-way communications with simple homemade equipment and without causing interference to primary users of the band,” McDonald concluded.

There is an agenda item to allocate 135,7 - 137,8 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary worldwide basis at the ITU World Radio Conference 2007 (WRC07). There is however one snag for the Canadians, the power allowed will only be 1 watt eirp so they would have to resort to PC based very slow-speed CW.

WEATHER PATTERNS AND PROPAGATION, IS THERE A CONNEC-

TION?

Much has been written about the correlation between weather patterns and ionospheric propagation. Is there substance what researchers are saying? Does the 11-year cycle influence the rainfall and the number of cold fronts that hit us?

Jacques van Delft had made a study of this and will present his finding during the next Intecnet on Sunday 1 October 2006. Join the discussion by linking your club repeater to the network. Send an email to armi@sarl.org.za. The Intecnet follows the President's net at 20:00 CAT. The President's net starts at 19:00.

RADIO ZS

The July/September 2006 of Radio ZS is at present being printed. The electronic version is available for download from the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za. The editor would like to have the next issue available during November and invites SARL members to contribute suitable material. Send your contributions to radiozs@sarl.org.za or the address as indicated in Radio ZS.

CONTEST NEWS

SARL 80 METRE QSO PARTY

The second leg of the SARL 80 Metre QSO Party will be run on Thursday evening, 5 October 2006.

PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE 2006 SARL HF CW CONTEST

The Contest Committee received 16 logs made up of 14 contest logs and 2 check logs. No multi-operator logs were received.

1st Elandre, ZS4TU, 154 points; 2nd Vidi, ZS1EL, 140 points; 3rd Allan, ZS1AAX, 138 points.

The best score on a single band is shared by Donovan, ZS2DL, and Barney, ZS4U, with 70 points each on 40 metres.

The Bloemfontein RAC leads in the club competition with 336 points, followed by the Pretoria ARC with 248 points and the Highway ARC with 212 points. All the results will be published in a special HF Happenings early next week.

ISLANDS ON THE AIR PROGRAM ANNOUNCES ICOM SPONSORSHIP DEAL

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) has announced that Icom will become the new corporate sponsor of its popular Islands on the Air (IOTA) programme, effective 1 October. "This three-year worldwide sponsorship deal is a major boost to IOTA both in the UK and internationally," the RSGB said. "Principally involving sponsorship from both Icom UK and Icom America, this deal is set to build this already-popular program into 2009 and beyond." RSGB says the IOTA program has expanded significantly in recent years and now boasts tens of thousands of participants. New Web-based software has been

launched to ease the filing and checking of award applications. Since IOTA's launch in 1964, both Yaesu and Kenwood have served as program sponsors.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at very low-to-low levels. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to unsettled levels on 18 and 23 until 24 September.

The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 15.

20 m and 40 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of 20 m openings towards the East from about 06:00 CAT and 40 m at 20:00. From about 16:00, 15 and 20 m may open towards Europe. Conditions are going to be very challenging towards the USA. For the CW and digital enthusiasts, it may also be worth monitoring 10 MHz.

Please visit www.spaceweather.co.za for further information.

CLUB NEWS

WEST RAND FLEA MARKET

The West Rand ARC would like to thank everybody for their support of the Flea Market held on Saturday 2 September 2006. It was nice to meet old friends again. The Club has decided that in future, the West Rand ARC Flea Market will be held on the first Saturday of May and September each year. Everybody is welcome to attend.

DIARY OF EVENTS

21 September - Closing date for ZU entries for the October RAE; 01 October - President's Net and Intecnet; 05 October - SARL 80 Metre QSO Party; 07 October - East Rand Flea market; 19 October - End of year RAE; 20/22 October - CQ Hou Koers and JOTA

SARL News depends on clubs and individuals for news items of importance and interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution will reach the SARL News team, is to place it in www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will be appreciated if you will do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The SARL also invites all listeners to listen to the program Amateur Radio Mirror International this Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 695 kHz. Audio is also streamed on www.zs6mrk.org and on Echolink from ZS6FCS as for this bulletin. A repeat transmission takes place on Mondays at 21:00 on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have been listening to a news bulletin by the South African Radio League,
which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS.

A prosperous week to all, 73.

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